

Quick Strokes

Issued four times a year, in June, September, December, and March. This is No. 1 of Vol. VII and is Whole Number 21.

November! 1979! Portland!
Oregon! Big meeting! Best
auspices! DIF First Annual!

Come one! Come all! The directors of the Dvorak International Federation have set Nov. 16, 1979 as the date for the first annual meeting of that alert and lively organization.

Please get the details from the officers of DIF. They are

Helen Baldwin, president, 503-246-8251
Thurman Clark, vice-pres, 503-229-5824
Lou Ellen Weld, sec'y, 503-378-3770.
Or write to DIF, P. O. Box 13113, Salem,
Oregon 97309.

With a ten-member provisional executive board made up of managers, supervisors, and educators, all of whom have had impressive amounts of experience with the Dvorak arrangement of characters on keyboards, DIF may be depended on for planning and organization.

Can DIF depend on us, kickers and waiters for breaks, to recognize one? DIF needs our dues. The organizers live and work in a great state, but they don't own it.

A ten-dollar check to DIF will bring you the federation bulletin, quarterly, eight to sixteen pages, full of authentic information, and will line you up for DIF's other services.

The Iowa Traveler

That highway hiker whom you may encounter anywhere, with his American flag flying and with his presidential ambition proclaimed on a sandwich board, is Gerald Baker, mail address 2119 College St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613.

Although Baker is an advocate of the Dvorak arrangement for typewriter keyboards and a skilled operator on it, he

does not attempt to make a platform issue of it. In newspaper interviews in Madison, Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha, all Wisconsin, he makes the point that honesty and intelligence are, or at any rate ought to be considered, prime qualifications for high office.

Watch for Baker in Minnesota in June, Missouri in July, and between New York and the District of Columbia afterward. In October and November, keep an eye out for him on the West Coast.

He is an agent for Quick Strokes and for Speedy Keyboard Enterprises. The model that he stocks is the SCM Coronomatic 2200, a portable with features that make it acceptable for work in many offices. Phone number, when he is not on the road, 319-266-3718.

Dates and places for two meetings of American National Standards Committee X4, office machines and supplies

The standards committee with jurisdiction over the arrangement of characters and functions on alphanumeric keyboards is ANS X4. The designations of the two ANS committees sponsored by the Computer and Business Equipment Manufacturers' Association start with an X because that industry is twenty-fourth on the list of industries for which the American National Standards Institute publishes standards.

The other is X3, concerned with devices that produce a code.

X4 will meet September 13, 1979, at CBEMA, Suite 1200, 1828 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. A report from Working Group X4DSK has been an agenda point for X4 ever since a "reform" ar-

(See next page)

angement became an X4 project, in 1975.

Meetings of X4 occur three times a year. The next one after the September date will be held at the IBM building in San Diego, California, on January 16 and 17, 1980.

It seems safe to suggest that there will be debate at both meetings over draft proposals for standards for reform arrangements. Arrangements to attend as an observer can be made by calling the X4 chairman, J. P. Ancona, at 201-848-3462.

Prospects for alternative schools

A proprietor of a private school, in considering offering a new subject, considers the probable competition. From this editor's desk, the competition on Dvorak typing instruction does not appear formidable.

Although the public high schools are not averse to teaching Dvorak keying, we need not look to them for leadership. Administrators disclaim any status as servants of the banking, insurance, or public-utility industries. Rather, they serve the whole public and, hence, must keep their instruction very general.

Well aware of this attitude, some business people set up their own training programs, with success which varies according to the planning. All business

would much rather get their operators pretrained.

This is where private training organizations come in. They are free to advertise both their course offerings and the services of their graduates. The equipment is available, instructional material is available, and the market for clerical labor understands, to some extent at least, the Dvorak advantages.

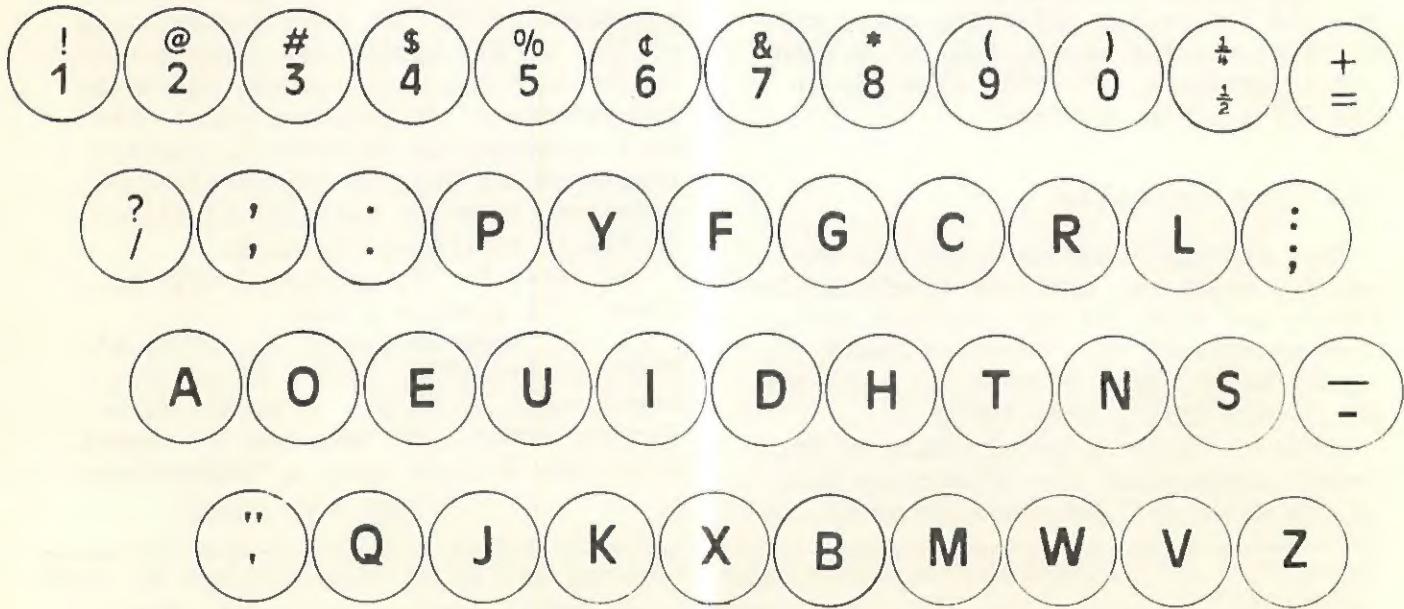
In search of a consistent terminology

Probably the American National standards for the better-than-qwerty arrangement of characters for alphanumeric keyboards will apply the term "reform arrangement."

Quick Strokes has used "Dvorak variant" to refer to any arrangement that is close to the arrangement of the diagram on page 219 of Dvorak et al., Typewriting Behavior, without being identical.

Manufacturers' proprietary terms, ASK or American Simplified, are rather poor, and there is an objection also to the favored term of the late August Dvorak. That was "the Simplified keyboard."

Several variants are in practical application in the state of Oregon. The Oregon Executive Department, however, has simplified matters for vendors by designating locations for forty-four



pairs of characters, including $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ but excluding square brackets, and calls this variant "the Dvorak."

It is reasonable to assume that the Executive Department arrangement will prevail more and more in Oregon and elsewhere.

At the foot of page 3 in this issue of Quick Strokes is a diagram of Oregon Dvorak.

Quick Strokes goes to Salem

The directors of the Dvorak International Federation extended a gratifying welcome to Philip Davis on his June 7, 1979, visit to Salem, the Oregon state capital.

At the Department of Revenue word-processing center, Lou Ellen Weld, the manager, showed the Quick Strokes editor the sixteen units with Oregon Dvorak keyboard, of which two were attended at the time.

The units are of Vydec make and are hybrid, with the Dvorak symbols printed in the larger type on the keytops and the traditional, q, w, e, r, t, y legends printed smaller on the same buttons. A toggle reroutes the circuits for the benefit of the night crew, who may be working days in a qwerty shop.

After cordial interviews with Weld and with Chris Christensen, coordinator of the Dvorak program for the Executive Department, PD from QS met with the provisional DIF board of directors - all holding responsible positions either in state government or in private industry.

An insurance company house organ editor's views on Dvorak keying

Please note that article cited here appeared some time ago:

Don Moore, Mutual Matters (CUNA Mutual CUMIS Insurance Societies, Madison, Wisconsin) Vol. 6, No. 11, November, 1973, page 4, "Blame It On QWERT".

Diagrams illustrate the contrast between the 70 per cent of strokes that are dealt in the home row in Dvorak and the birdshot pattern of stroking on the tra-

ditional arrangement. A brief summary of the advantages of Dvorak keying follows.

A "more recent test" than the 1946 U. S. Navy application is mentioned as occurring before a large group of professional writers. In it, "a QWERT typist and a DSK typist were seated side by side and asked to use the same page of unfamiliar copy, and to hold their speed down to 25 words per minute to make viewing easier.

"There were gasps of amazement from the audience. The QWERT typist's fingers were scattering all over the keyboard, while the DSK typist's fingers remained primarily on the home row of keys."

It gives one a turn to see two of the old objections still raised as late as 1973. The prosperity of the office equipment industry shows that users of that merchandise do, indeed, review their holdings and decide to order new machines with specified features. The schools are well advised to pay heed to user preferences.

Address Mutual Matters at P. O. Box 391, Madison 53701.

Bibliographic notes, under K for Kolb, A. C., of Carmel and Durango

Kolb, A. C., California Science Teacher's Journal (San Diego), Vol. IX, No. 3, pages 8 to 11, "Change Comes Slowly".

Kolb, A. C., OEA Professional News Insert in OEA Communiqué, Vol. 3, No. 2, November-December, 1978, unnumbered page following 12, "Science has Built a Better Typewriter".

A. C. Kolb, Business Exchange (Houghton-Mifflin), article forthcoming.

The Communiqué is the official publication of the Office Education Association, headquartered at 1120 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229. A photo that appears both in the Insert and the Journal shows a Carmel Middle School student, Michelle Huffs, at a keyboard with her hands in a pretty good position, reaching in for Dvorak i.

Given sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-

grade students and one 13-week quarter, Kolb has brought one student, on a 42-key Dvorak variant, to a score of 65 correct words per minute for five minutes.

The milepost of writing a sentence in which the whole alphabet is used, without looking, is reached, by students on Dvorak, in an average of ten class periods. The average for their classmates at a qwerty board is thirty periods.

Instructional materials for Dvorak and variant keyboard arrangements

Quick Strokes knows of five sets of instructional material for Dvorak variant keyboard arrangements, all of them either out of stock or not yet in stock. No advertising copy or press release for any has come to hand.

This situation leaves the Simplified Keyboard Supplement to Dvorak et al., Scientific Typewriting as the only manual for Dvorak typing that is in stock and can be mailed at once. As is, \$2.50

postage paid; with Alterations for Oregon Dvorak, \$5.50. At Speedy Keyboard Ent. Inc., Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

A good thing to subscribe to

Quick Strokes is \$5 a year, at Box 643, West Sacramento, CA 95691.

Two more models available with Dvorak variant arrangement

The IBM electronic typewriters models 50 and 60, can be ordered with the Oregon standard variant of the Dvorak arrangement built in, according to Jim Murphy, of IBM Sacramento. A complete diagram should accompany your Special Engineering Request. There is an extra charge, and the time until delivery may be twenty weeks.

Thanks! to all the good people who have paid their subscriptions. Thanks! to Ben D. and Grace T. Wood, Helen Baldwin, Fletcher Pence, and others for your kind words.

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